

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TO THE  
EAST GRINSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL—1925.



Area in acres.....	45,809	Census Population, 1921.
Census population .....	13,845	
Number of inhabited houses.....	3,465	
Number of families or separate occupiers.....	3,239	
Rateable value .....	£126,047	

Sum represented by one penny rate ..... £525

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Population estimated to middle of year .....	12,443	13,845	13,710	13,760	14,050	14,250
Birth rate per 1,000 of population .....	15·0	19·1	14·0	14·4	15·0	12·0
Deaths under one year per 1,000 births .....	42·0	12·0	57·0	65·0	78·0	28·0
Total death rate per 1,000 .....	10·3	9·1	10·6	10·0	11·0	10·0
Nett death rate per 1,000 .....	10·2	9·0	10·0	10·6	11·0	10·0
Zymotic death rate per 1,000.....	·1	·1	·8	·1	·1	·1
Death rate from phthisis per 1,000 .....	·5	·4	·3	·4	1·0	·4
Death rate from respiratory diseases per 1,000 .....	·7	1·0	1·0	·7	1·1	·3
Senile mortality, deaths at 65 years and over as percentage of nett deaths .....	43·0	48·0	56·0	52·0	49·0	54·0

	Total.	Male.	Female.	
Births—Legitimate.....	161	77	84	Birth rate 12·0
Illegitimate .....	8	5	3	
Deaths.....	141	73	68	Death rate 10·0

Number of women dying in or in consequence of child birth, 0.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

The vital statistics of the district for the year 1925 are satisfactory except for the unfortunate number of cases of deaths from infectious diseases: Scarlet fever, 1; enteric fever, 1; whooping cough, 3; encephalitis lethargica, 1; anterior poliomyelitis, 1.

The birth rate is slightly raised, while the death rate is lower.

The death rate of infants under one year of age has fallen considerably from 78 per 1,000 to 28 per 1,000 births. This is satisfactory, and may be due to the good work carried on at Copthorne by the Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre.

The deaths from tuberculosis are lowered as well as those from bronchitis, while the proportion of persons dying at 65 years and over is raised. Four deaths were registered from suicide and two from accidents.

#### COMPARISON OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	Infantile		
	Birth rate,	mortality rate.	Death rate.
England and Wales ...	18·3	75	12·2
East Grinstead Rural	12	28	10

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Diphtheria .....	2	2	—
Scarlet fever .....	11	8	1
Enteric fever .....	2	1	1
Erysipelas .....	4	—	—
Encep. lethargica	1	1	1
Pneumonia .....	22	—	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis, M.8, F.2	10	M.6, F.2	M.3
Non-pulmonary, M.3, F.3 .....	6	M.1, F.3	—
Oph. niconatorum	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	1

#### NURSING.

Professional nursing in the home, general, midwives and by the Sussex Nursing Federation, assisted by the County Council.

*Fever Hospital.*—Provided by East Grinstead Conjoint Hospital Committee.

*Tuberculosis.*—By County Council at Robertsbridge.

*Small-pox.*—By East Sussex Western Small-pox Hospital Committee, Sedgebrook, Plumpton.

*Venerel Diseases.*—Tunbridge Wells, Brighton and Hastings Hospitals.

*Ambulance.*—Provided by Fever Hospital.

#### LABORATORY WORK.

Examinations were made by the Medical Officer of Health. Swabs for diphtheria, 22; positive, 11; negative, 11.

The Sanitary Inspector keeps a supply of diphtheria antitoxin and influenza vaccine.

#### LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

List of adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Local Regulations relating to Public Health in force in the District:—

*Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.* adopted January 1st, 1890.

*Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.* adopted February 19th, 1891.

*Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890.* (Part 3 as far as applicable to a Rural Authority). adopted February 19th, 1891.

*Order of L.G.B. investing Council with urban powers under Private Street Works Act, 1892, in part of parish of Withyham, dated November 1st, 1907.*

*Similar Order for part of parish of West Hoathly and Worth, dated September 19th, 1911.*

*Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885, dated November 15th, 1900.*

*For house drainage and connection with public sewer, dated May 25th, 1905.*

*Rules and Regulations, Worth and West Hoathly Water Works, dated July 23rd, 1903.*

*Bye-laws, slaughter-houses, dated November 30th, 1922.*

*New streets and buildings, dated September 6th, 1888.*

*Nuisances, dated September 6th, 1888.*

*Nuisances, dated December 13th, 1900.*

*Tents, vans and sheds, dated September 13th, 1900.*

*New buildings and keeping water closets supplied with water, dated March 7th, 1901.*



## GENERAL SURVEY REPORT.

The report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925 has to be a survey report for the previous five years.

The character and social conditions of the locality have altered but slightly. The District is chiefly residential and agricultural, dairy farming and stock raising.

At Three Bridges a number of small houses give residence to railway workers.

At West Hoathly a local industry of hoop making is carried on.

In other parts of the district there are brick-yards.

### HOUSING.

There has been a distinct shortage of houses, especially in the parishes of Worth and Forest Row, but during the past five years this shortage is being overcome.

Number of houses erected during the past five years by the Council's housing scheme, 282; also by the Council in 1921, 16 houses; 1925, 6 houses, in course of erection 68, proposed erection 62.

The Sanitary Inspector's report gives a detailed account of housing.

### WATER SUPPLY.

In the East Grinstead Rural District there are 1,731 houses supplied with water from the Water Company's mains and 1,732 supplied from springs and wells.

During the past five years progress has been made with regard to the connection of many houses to the water mains. At Three Bridges, in Worth parish, the supply of water from the Crawley and District Company has not been satisfactory and steps are being taken to supply this district from the East Surrey Company. The Council have extended their water mains at Black Corner, Pound Hill, Balcombe Lane and Copthorne in parish of Worth, and Horsted Keynes road in parish of West Hoathly. The water to these parts is obtained from the East Surrey Water Company and distributed by the Council's mains. The water is of exceptional purity and is supplied under constant pressure.

The East Grinstead Water Company have extended their mains to Forest Row and Ashurst Wood; the water from this Company is good but contains iron, which is eliminated by filtration before distribution. New service mains supply water to Cowden and Holtby from the Limpsfield and Oxted Water Company.

At Groombridge the water supply is not satisfactory. An Inquiry was held during the past year by the Ministry of Health into the circumstances of the water supply of Groombridge and the Council is considering the best plan to secure a good supply of water to this area.

During the year 1925 the Council considered the sinking of a well near Kingscote Station to obtain a supply of water for the district of West Hoathly and Turners Hill. The well was sunk 300 feet with no signs of water and further sinking was given up, as it was shown the bore was in the Wadhurst clay. At 282 feet shells and soft sand, with a little water, and at 285.6 feet grey sand was found.

An Inquiry was held for sanction to borrow £4,450 for water for Three Bridges.

### SEWERAGE.

The Sewage Works at Three Bridges consists of tanks and filters. For some time these works have proved too small for the area and will be shortly superseded by works in connection with Copthorne and Crawley Down.

At Turners Hill, Worth parish sewage is treated by broad irrigation.

At Forest Row, Ashurst Wood, St. John's, Crowborough, Ocklye, The Warren, Crowborough, and Groombridge the sewage is treated on good systems. At Hartfield the sewage is treated on a meadow. West Hoathly, Crawley Down and Copthorne require sewerage schemes. 1,520 houses in the district are connected to sewers, 1,943 to cesspools, 2,220 to w.e.'s, 1,243 have pails and privies. Fifty-four privies have been converted during the past five years.

An Inquiry was held with regard to a complaint as to the provision of sufficient sewers (surface water) at Groombridge.

### SCAVENGING.

Cleansing of cesspools is undertaken at Crawley Down and Copthorne, and house refuse at Three Bridges now extended to Crawley Church. The work is carried out by contract, which gives rise to many complaints. The material is deposited on land.

I have forwarded the following reports to the Council on the Public Health (Meat) Regulations on the unsuitability of premises for a slaughter-house at Ashurst Wood and advised no license should be granted. My report was acted upon. A report on milk suspected to be connected with outbreak of enteric fever at Wands-worth. The water supply and dairy sheds were found very bad. A farm hand had suffered from enteric fever. The owner agreed to at once lay on water from mains and keep premises clean, otherwise I had intended to ask the Council to remove occupier's name from register and thus stop supplies. The milk from this farm probably was the cause of outbreak of illness.

### Defective houses at Hazelwick.

Attention of the owner supplying Grade A milk which was found to be unsatisfactory.

The Council re-appointed an Inspector of R.S.P.C.A. as hon. inspector for the district to assist in carrying out the Council's bye-laws with respect to the humane slaughtering of animals.

Good work is being carried out by the Copthorne and Crawley Down Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health whole time; D.P.H. Sanitary Inspector, M.R.S.I. by examination; Special Meat Inspector's Certificate of R.S.I.

I append the report of the Sanitary Inspector. The report contains an account of very excellent work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during the past year.

In conclusion I have to thank you, lady and gentlemen, for the kindness extended to me during the past year.

I also thank the Clerk and other officials for their kindly assistance in my work.

I am, your obedient Servant,

HUGH STOTT.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1925.

14, Station-road, East Grinstead.

26th January, 1926.

Mr. Chairman, My Lady and Gentlemen,—I beg to submit the following report of work carried out as Sanitary, Housing and Meat Inspector, &c., during the past year, 1925; also information required under Ministry of Health Circular 648:—

No. infectious cases reported to Inspector ... 53  
viz.: Scarlet fever 11, diphtheria 2, enteric fever 3, erysipelas 5, encephalitis lethargica 1, tuberculosis 11, pneumonia 20.

No. cases removed to Isolation Hospital ..... 10  
viz.: Scarlet fever 6, diphtheria 2, enteric fever 1, encephalitis lethargica 1.

### INFECTIOUS CASES NOTIFIED RELATING TO PARISHES.

Parishes	Scarlet fever	Diphtheria	Enteric fever	Erysipelas
Forest Row .....	5	1	1	2
Hartfield .....	1	1	1	1
Withyham .....	1	1	1	1
West Hoathly .....	1	1	1	2
Worth .....	1	—	—	5
	11	2	3	5

Parishes	Tuberculosis	Encephalitis Lethargica	Pneumonia
Forest Row .....	1	1	15
Hartfield .....	3	1	1
Withyham .....	1	1	1
West Hoathly .....	2	1	1
Worth .....	5	1	3
	11	1	20



The following Elementary Schools were closed for short periods owing to infectious illness—Crawley Down and West Hoathly owing to influenza; Ashurst Wood owing to influenza and measles; Forest Row, Withyham and Blackham owing to whooping cough; and Hartfield owing to mumps.

All houses where infectious cases occur are disinfected free of cost with formalin, drains flushed with iza fluid, and walls and ceilings of rooms stripped, cleansed and purified.

Printed and verbal instructions are given to occupiers with regard to precautions being taken to prevent the spread of infection, and if the patient attends school head teachers are informed of the illness and children who have been in contact with infected cases are kept from school for a time and isolated.

Special instruction cards are given to occupiers of houses where tuberculosis cases occur, disinfectants regularly supplied and premises disinfected after death or removal.

In addition to disinfecting after ordinary infectious illness, your Inspector has disinfected 10 houses after tuberculosis, eight after pneumonia, three after whooping cough, three owing to vermin, one after mumps, one after measles and one after death from cancer.

Anti-diphtheria serum is stored at Inspector's house, but no serum was required during the past year.

**ISOLATION HOSPITAL.**—The hospital for infectious cases is a joint hospital for East Grinstead Urban and East Grinstead Rural District. There are two blocks and 20 beds for the rural cases, being one block for scarlet fever and half-block each for diphtheria and enteric fever.

#### INSPECTIONS MADE, INCLUDING INSPECTIONS UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

No. inspections made during the year .....	2,208
„ original inspections .....	1,263
„ re-inspections where defects were found .....	945
„ inspections made with Medical Officer of Health .....	16
„ premises where nuisances and defects were found .....	131
„ premises where nuisances and defects were remedied .....	134
„ premises where nuisances and defects were reported to Council .....	131
„ premises where nuisances and defects were remedied at request of Inspector .....	109
„ premises where nuisances and defects were remedied by order of Council .....	25
„ informal letters written and notices served by Inspector .....	726
„ complaints received and attended to .....	65

In some cases verbal instructions are given by Inspector to remedy defects and abate nuisances.

#### INSPECTIONS MADE RELATING TO PARISHES.

Parishes	Dwelling-houses	Schools	Shops & slaughter-houses	Factories and workshops
Forest Row.....	75	4	136	15
Hartfield .....	55	1	67	4
Withyham .....	40	1	52	11
West Hoathly .....	21	2	42	2
Worth .....	249	4	213	11
	440	12	510	43

Parishes	Bakehouses	Dairies and cowsheds	Piggeries and cesspools	Camps & vans	Re-inspections
Forest Row ...	13	43	—	1	264
Hartfield .....	1	38	—	—	71
Withyham.....	4	35	—	—	75
West Hoathly .....	5	34	—	1	104
Worth .....	8	45	14	16	431
	31	195	14	18	945

#### HOUSING.

No. plans passed for new houses .....	127
„ new houses erected during the year ...	64
„ new houses erected with State assistance under Housing Acts:—	
(i.) by Local Authority .....	6
(ii.) by other bodies or persons (subsidy) .....	35
(1) Unfit dwelling houses.	
„ houses inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts .....	440
„ houses inspected under Housing Inspection of District Regulations, 1910 or 1925 .....	149
„ houses found to be in such a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2
„ houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found to be defective or not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	96
„ houses repaired or rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their officers .....	97

#### ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 Housing Act, 1925 :—	
1. No. houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	Nil
2. No. houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice (a) by owner or Local Authority ...	Nil
3. No. houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declaration of owners of intention to close .....	2
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
1. No. houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	29
2. No. houses in which defects were remedied by owners after notice .....	25
3. No. houses in which defects were remedied by Local Authority ...	Nil
C.—Proceedings under Section II. 14, 15, Housing Act, 1925 :—	
1. No. houses representations made with a view to making closing orders .....	Nil
2. No. houses in respect of which closing orders were made .....	Nil
3. No. houses in respect of which closing orders were determined and houses rendered fit .....	Nil
4. No. houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ...	Nil
5. No. houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders .....	Nil

#### GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

No. inhabited houses in the district (approximate) .....	3,463
„ inhabited houses rateable value to £16,2615	

#### NUMBER OF HOUSES RELATING TO PARISHES.

Parish.	Rateable Value £16.	Larger houses.
Forest Row .....	578	214
Hartfield .....	364	106
Withyham .....	467	201
West Hoathly .....	303	98
Worth .....	903	229

There has been a general shortage of houses in the district, especially in the parishes of Worth and Forest Row, but during the past five years 282 houses have been built in the district. Also to meet this shortage the Council's housing schemes are as follow:—

No. houses erected during the past five years .....	282
„ houses erected by Council 1921 .....	16
„ houses erected by Council 1925 .....	6
„ houses in course of erection by Council 1925 .....	68
„ houses at present in contemplation of erection by Council 1926 .....	62

Parishes.	No. houses erected during past 5 years	No. houses erected and being erected relating to parishes.
Forest Row .....	47	30
Hartfield .....	46	12
Withyham .....	59	50
West Hoathly .....	17	8
Worth .....	113	52

Totals .....

282 .....

152



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In addition, cottages are at present being built with the aid of subsidy fairly rapidly at Forest Row, one contractor having submitted plans during the past year for the erection of 42 cottages, some of which are already built and completed.

## WATER SUPPLY.

No. houses supplied from mains .....	1,731
viz.: Forest Row.—East Grinstead	
Gas and Water Company's	
mains .....	415
Plawhatch private mains .....	25
Hartfield.—Limpsfield & Oxted	
Water Company .....	17
A. H. Clough, Esq., private	
mains .....	50
Withyham.—Croyborough and	
District Water Company .....	107
West Hoathly.—East Grinstead	
Rural District Council .....	251
Plawhatch Estate private	
mains .....	4
Worth.—East Grinstead Rural	
District Council .....	552
Crawley and District Water	
Company's mains (since	
taken over by Council) .....	290
Worth Park Estate private	
mains .....	20
No. houses supplied from wells and springs .....	1,732
samples of water sent to Medical	
Officer of Health for analysis .....	20
samples of water sent to County	
Analyst .....	7
houses supplied from mains, previous	
supply wells condemned .....	3
new houses supplied from mains .....	43
new houses supplied from wells .....	21
water certificates granted for new	
houses .....	75
well covers and pumps amended .....	7
wells repaired, cleaned out and re-	
steined .....	10

The water supply at Three Bridges has not been satisfactory for the past five years, the water having been turned off every evening at 6 p.m. During the past year the Council have taken over the mains at Three Bridges from the Crawley and District Water Company and will shortly supply Three Bridges with the East Surrey water. The Council have recently extended their mains from Black Corner, Worth, to Three Bridges, down Pound Hill, Balcombe road and Copthorne road in the parish of Worth, and down Horsted Keynes road in the parish of West Hoathly. The East Grinstead Gas and Water Company have also extended their mains at Forest Row and Ashurst Wood, and new service mains have been extended from Cowden to Holtye by the Limpsfield and Oxted Water Company.

At Groombridge, Motts Mill and parts of Hartfield parish the existing water supply, which is mainly derived from shallow wells, is not satisfactory. The Council are at present considering the question of obtaining water for Groombridge.

WORK DONE TO ABATE NUISANCE AND  
REPAIR HOUSES UNDER HOUSING  
ACTS &c

No. premises		ACRS, &c.	11
	drains re-constructed .....		23
" "	drains amended .....		23
" "	closets amended, &c. ....		13
" "	privies converted to e.e.'s and w.e.'s .....		5
" "	cesspools provided and repaired .....		8
" "	sink and waste pipes pro- vided .....		8
" "	walls, windows and doors amended .....		16
" "	roofs, rain pipes and gutters amended .....		29
" "	yard paving and floors amended .....		13
" "	kitchen range provided .....		1
" "	coppers for washing provided .....		3
" "	house rooms ventilated .....		1
" "	foul refuse removed .....		3
" "	overcrowding abated .....		2
" "	nuisance abated from animals .....		3
" "	dirty rooms stripped and cleansed .....		64
" "	rooms disinfected .....		44
" "	cesspools overflowing .....		14
" "	nuisances abated from gipsy vans .....		3

There was not much serious overcrowding found in the district, although several houses which are only suitable for one family are occupied by two families.

The general character of defects found in unfit houses were mainly defective roofs, gutters, dampness, and dirty walls and ceilings.

The defects found were abated by informal letters written and notices served under Public Health Act, 1875.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Sewers are laid at Three Bridges, Worth parish, and connected with disposal works, tanks and filters at Three Bridges, Turners Hill village, Worth parish, has a system of sewers, and the sewage is treated by broad irrigation on land.

Forest Row, Ashurst Wood, Groombridge and St. John's, Withyham, have each a system of sewers and modern sewage disposal works. Crowborough Warren has also a system of sewers connected with disposal works, tanks and filters.

At Hartfield there is a piped sewer runs through the main village street and discharged and irrigates on a meadow.

At Hamsey road, West Hoathly, there is a piped sewer taking 21 houses and connected with a small disposal works.

Crawley Down, Copthorne and West Hoathly are in need of sewerage schemes.

The question of a sewerage system with disposal works for Crawley Down and Copthorne is in hand and plans are at present being prepared for the scheme by the Council's Surveyor.

No. houses connected with sewers .....	1,520
" " " cesspools, &c.	1,943
" " " water closets...	2,220
" " " pails and privy closets .....	1,243
" privies converted to w.c.'s and pails during past five years .....	54

During the past year sewers have been extended to Wall Hill Estate and Golf View Cottages, Forest Row, and at Pound Hill to Council Cottages, Worth.

## SCAVENGING

The Council empty and cleanse pail closets and cesspools in Crawley Down and Copthorne, and collect house refuse from dustbins at Three Bridges. This work is carried out by contract and refuse deposited on land.

London house refuse is still being deposited near West Hoathly Railway Station and used mainly for brickmaking.

During the past two years there has not been very much refuse unloaded and no serious complaints have been received.

SCHOOLS

**SCHOOLS.**

There are 15 Elementary Schools in the district. There has recently been a general improvement with regard to the sanitary condition of the schools.

the schools. Many of the schools' playgrounds are still muddy and insanitary, and the cleansing of the school walls, ceilings and floors is not in many cases carried out satisfactorily. It would, in my opinion, be beneficial to the health of the children if the following rules could be adopted by each school as regards cleansing :—

- (1) Floors brushed daily and before brushing be sprinkled with a weak solution of disinfecting fluid.
- (2) Floors washed weekly.
- (3) Walls and ceilings of school rooms, cloak rooms, interior of cupboards, w.c.'s and urinals, be cleansed, washed down or distempered, as the case may be, at least once a year, say during the summer holidays.
- (4) Drains, latrines and closets be cleansed and flushed weekly with fluid disinfectants

Owing to a special inspection made of the schools in 1922 and 1923 the following works have since been carried out:-

Schools drains re-constructed .....	3
"    drains amended .....	5
"    closets and latrines re-constructed .....	5
"    walls and ceilings distepered .....	5
"    inspections made (past five years) .....	119



## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No. factories and workshops registered (including bakehouses) .....	58
.. factories and workshops inspections ...	94
.. factories and workshops original inspections .....	94
.. factories and workshops re-inspections .....	20
.. bakehouses neglect to limewash re-Factory and Workshop Act and limewashed at request of Inspector .....	11
.. workshops closet amended .....	1
.. laundry limewashed .....	1
.. laundry extra closet accommodation provided .....	1

## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

No. dairies and cowsheds registered .....	100
.. retail purveyors registered .....	37
.. wholesale producers registered .....	76
.. dairies and cowsheds inspections .....	236
.. dairies and cowsheds original inspections .....	195
.. dairies and cowsheds re-inspections .....	41
.. dairies and cowsheds drains re-constructed .....	2
.. dairies and cowsheds drains amended .....	4
.. dairies and cowsheds new cowshed built .....	2
.. dairies and cowsheds new cooling shed built .....	1
.. dairies and cowsheds water laid on from main .....	1
.. dairies and cowsheds ventilated .....	1
.. yards raised, &c. ....	2
.. cows udders found foul .....	7
.. dairies and cowsheds neglected to lime-wash in accordance with Regulations and limewashed at request of Inspector .....	15

Some of the premises are registered both as wholesale producers and retailers. Your Council refused to register one retailer owing to dairy not being properly paved and drained.

Notices were sent as usual to all occupiers of registered dairies and cowsheds in May and October reminding them to lime-wash sheds in accordance with the Regulations.

## MILK AND DAIRIES CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1915, AND TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1925.

Under the above Order 15 milch cows were examined and slaughtered owing to tuberculosis.

Your Inspector saw all the cows slaughtered and examined the carcases and organs afterwards. Thirteen of the said carcases were emaciated and so affected with tuberculosis as to be quite unfit for human food.

The lungs and pharyngeal glands of two carcases were affected with tuberculosis. In these two cases the affected organs were destroyed and the two carcases passed for human food.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

	In 1920.	Jan. 1925.	Dec. 1925.
No. slaughter-houses registered .....	2	2	2
.. slaughter-houses (including one horse slaughter-house) licensed .....	13	12	12
.. inspections slaughter-houses and shops .....			510

One application for a slaughter-house license was refused owing to the building being too near other dwelling houses.

Your Council adopted new bye-laws for slaughter-houses in 1922. These bye-laws provide for humane slaughtering and all animals are now slaughtered with a gun.

The Public Health Meat Regulations came into force in April, 1925. These Regulations (with the exception of marking the meat) are now being carried out.

The butchers have given written notice of fixed days of slaughter, which are chiefly Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and also give notice of intention to slaughter when killing other than the fixed days. Your Inspector visits the slaughter-houses every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and inspects the meat before it is taken into the shop.

In addition to the carcases condemned under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, the following quantities of meat were condemned and destroyed with the consent of the butcher during the past year:—

Two carcases and organs heifer beef owing to tuberculosis.

One carcase and organs pig owing to tuberculosis.

Three carcases and organs pigs owing to swine fever.

One carcase and organs bullock beef (died from accident, and flesh fevered and ill-bled).

One carcase and organs sheep (flesh fevered and ill-bled).

One fore and two hindquarters lamb owing to accident.

Three bullocks' heads and tongues owing to tuberculosis.

20-lbs. imported beef, unsound.

10-lbs. imported mutton, unsound.

11-lbs. imported pork, unsound.

The general quality of home killed meat in the district continues to be good.

Swine fever occurred on one farm and the farmer was allowed to kill the pigs that had been in contact. Your Inspector inspected and examined 39 carcases of pigs which were killed on this farm. Three of the carcases were found to be affected with swine fever and were destroyed. The remaining 36 carcases were passed for food.

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

During the past year your Inspector was again appointed the Inspector under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

Several inspections were made under the Act. In connection with the National Rat Week, over 200 handbills and circulars were posted and sent to occupiers of corn wails, farms, bakeries, slaughter-houses, owners of refuse heaps, brick-yards, &c., advising them to make a special effort that week to destroy rats. Large bills were also posted in shop windows and other conspicuous places to stimulate interest in the matter. The owners of the large refuse heap at West Hoathly also give a small fee for every rat killed by their employés.

I am, your obedient Servant,

THOMAS FAIRHURST.

